

RESILIENCY FORUM AGENDA



SESSION 1

Setting the Stage - The NYC Waterfront

Tuesday, October 13th

How can our industry move past the roadblocks of building resiliency?

Silman seeks to answer this question by convening engineers, designers, policy makers, and academics to identify limitations and develop strategies for continued progress and innovation.

SESSION 2

Limitations of Current Work and Study

Tuesday, October 20th

Over the course of four virtual sessions, we will facilitate discussions to better define the current state of resilient design in New York City. We intend to interrogate the moment where advanced flood mitigation planning meets the realities of building by building implementation, and develop strategies for ensuring that the best planning and thinking results in smart, effective, and comprehensive building protection.

SESSION 3

Economic Considerations of Resiliency Work

Thursday, October 29th

SESSION 4

Competing Timelines

Tuesday, November 10th

All sessions will run from 12:30-2:00pm Eastern Time.

SESSION 1: SETTING THE STAGE – THE NYC WATERFRONT

Tuesday, October 13th, 12:30-2pm Eastern



By examining the current status of resiliency work and study related to the NYC waterfront, this session will set the stage for the continued conversation of the Resiliency Forum.

Speakers will provide a review of the present state of resiliency work within the industry and academia in order to illustrate the NYC built environment's current level of preparedness for growing environmental stressors.

Using a framework of current trends in executed work and studies, we will take stock of New York City's preparedness or lack thereof. This is intended as act to springboard for future session conversations as we discuss how to push beyond current limitations in project design and execution.

SPEAKERS



Paul Lewis, FAIA

Principal, LTL Architects

Professor and Associate Dean, Princeton University School of Architecture

Paul is Professor and Associate Dean at Princeton University School of Architecture, where he has taught since 2000. He received a BA from Wesleyan University and a M.Arch from Princeton University. His NYC-based firm, LTL Architects, has worked on coastal adaptation projects including the redesign of the iconic Steeplechase Pier at Coney Island following Superstorm Sandy. Paul is the President of the Architectural League of New York and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome.



Sanjukta Sen

Senior Associate, James Corner Field Operations (JCFO)

As a landscape and architectural designer at JCFO, Sanjukta's projects in the New York City area have included Domino Park, River Street Waterfront, Greenpoint Landing, the Gansevoort Peninsula at Hudson River Park, the Cornell Applied Science campus on Roosevelt Island, and Newark Riverfront Park. She has also worked on the Underline Masterplan in Miami, FL. Sanjukta has taught graduate design studios in the Landscape Architecture department at the University of Pennsylvania and also lectured and been a guest critic at the University of Virginia, Florida International University, and Harvard GSD.



Joy Sinderbrand

Vice President, NYCHA Recovery and Resilience Department

Joy joined NYCHA in 2016 as the Vice President for the Recovery and Resilience Department. Created in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, this department is responsible for capital projects associated with the impacts of that storm, as well as preparing the agency more broadly for the future impacts of climate change. Joy manages the execution of projects at 35 developments under NYCHA's record \$3 billion FEMA grant program and other disaster recovery funding. To date, all major contracts have been awarded and almost \$2 billion has been invested in residential buildings housing 60,000 of the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Moderator: Nat Oppenheimer, Executive Vice President, Silman

SESSION 2: LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT RESILIENCY WORK & STUDY

Tuesday, October 20th, 12:30-2pm Eastern



Using recently completed project examples, this session will explore the design commonalities that have contributed to project successes or shortfalls. Speakers will provide a brief overview of key New York area resiliency proposals over the past several years, evaluate their strengths at differing scales of project scope, and analyze the roadblocks they faced, whether from a design perspective, a mismatch of community needs, or a lack of funding. This session will also examine fiscal, aesthetic, and technical motivations that have informed the preferred strategies of urban planners. From these examples, we aim to further a discussion how the shared elements of these designs might inform future work and process.

SPEAKERS



Signe Nielsen, RLA, FASLA

Founding Principal, Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects

Signe has been practicing as a landscape architect and urban designer in New York since 1978. Her body of work has renewed the environmental integrity and transformed the quality of spaces for those who live, work, and play in the urban realm. A Fellow of the ASLA, she is the recipient of more than 100 national and local design awards for public open space projects and is published extensively nationally and internationally. Signe is a professor of urban design and landscape architecture at Pratt Institute in both the graduate and undergraduate Schools of Architecture and serves as president of the Public Design Commission of the City of New York.



James S. Russell, FAIA

Architect and Independent Journalist

James is a journalist and consultant who focuses on architecture and urban growth and change. He is a columnist at *Bloomberg CityLab* and writes for numerous other publications including the *Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*. James was the architecture critic at *Bloomberg News* for nine years and was also a long-time editor at *Architectural Record*. He is the author of *The Agile City: Building Well Being and Wealth in an Era of Climate Change* (Island Press, 2016). James teaches urban studies issues at Stanford University's New York satellite campus and architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology.



Jesse M. Keenan

Associate Professor, Tulane School of Architecture

Jesse's research focuses on the intersection of climate change adaptation and the built environment, including aspects of design, engineering, regulation, planning and financing. His research has involved partnering with a variety of national and global stakeholders, including the American Institute of Architects, City of New York, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Science Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Regional Plan Association, United Nations, and the states of California and Massachusetts.

Moderator: Pat Arnett, Principal, Silman

SESSION 3: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS OF RESILIENCY WORK

Thursday, October 29th, 12:30-2pm Eastern



Made in New York (MINY) campus rendering courtesy of nArchitects.

Within discussions resiliency work, a common factor leading to a project's scope and success is the availability of financing. This session aims to deconstruct the processes of risk management and project valuation to provide insight on the economic challenges facing the implementation of resilient works. Additionally, flood insurance plays a crucial role in protecting the future of waterfront neighborhoods and informing the future of development or retreat. The program will examine the current state of the National Flood Insurance Program and discuss its benefits and pitfalls as we aim to prepare and protect communities from the future of sea level rise and climate change.

SPEAKERS



John D. Macomber

Senior Lecturer of Business Administration, Harvard Business School (HBS)

John's professional background includes leadership of real estate, construction, and information technology businesses. At HBS, his work focuses on the future of cities, particularly as aided by the private financing and delivery of public infrastructure projects in both the developed and emerging worlds. His teaching combines infrastructure finance (including public-private partnerships), investing in resilience (notably in the face of sea rise in some areas and drought in others), economic development, and the impact of new technologies in delivering new infrastructure and making old infrastructure more efficient.



David I. Maurstad

Deputy Associate Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA), FEMA

David is a veteran emergency manager and staunch advocate of building a culture of preparedness across the nation. As the head of FEMA's FIMA, he guides transformative efforts to communicate risk, increase flood insurance coverage, and incentivize mitigation against natural hazards. As senior executive of the NFIP, he leads the largest single-peril insurance operation in the world, providing more than \$1.3 trillion in flood coverage to more than 5 million U.S. policyholders. During his tenure with FEMA, David has held leadership positions for hundreds of major disaster operations, including Hurricanes Katrina, Matthew, Irma, Maria and Michael, tropical storm Harvey and countless catastrophic flooding and wildfire events.



Elizabeth Malone

Program Manager for Resiliency and Insurance, Neighborhood Housing Services Brooklyn

Elizabeth is the NHS Program Manager for Resiliency and Insurance Service, a program that provides information and access on insurance issues, including the National Flood Insurance Program, to residents and organizations. She has been involved with community-based organizations on insurance and housing recovery issues since 2000. In response to Sandy, Elizabeth counsels residents on property insurance issues and represents NHS at Sandy recovery forums as a subject matter expert in homeownership, insurance, and the National Flood Insurance Program. She is currently the Finance Committee co-chair for the Rise to Resilience Project, a campaign spearheaded by the Waterfront Alliance.

Moderator: Blaine Carmack, Project Engineer, Silman

SESSION 4: COMPETING TIMELINES

Tuesday, November 10th, 12:30-2pm Eastern



BPL Red Hook Library rendering courtesy of LEVENBETTS.

Despite an increasing urgency in preparing for flood events and coastal disasters, increases of public awareness and public consensus have not kept pace. Built environment projects can span years of from concept to completion, only compounding the immediate need to accelerate design and construction for a more resilient future while pushing public consensus forward.

This program will facilitate a dialogue between policy makers and designers on the front lines of building resilient coastal communities. While primarily focusing on obstacles such as time and politics, they will also discuss non-technical hurdles they have encountered in their respective fields.

SPEAKERS



Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, AIA, ASLA

Principal, Catherine Seavitt Studio;
Director and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, CUNY City College of New York

Catherine's work explores adaptation to climate change in urban environments and the novel transformation of landscape restoration practices. She also examines the intersection of political power, environmental activism, and public health, particularly as seen through the design of equitable public space and policy. Her books include Structures of Coastal Resilience (Island Press, 2018), and On the Water: Palisade Bay (Hatje Cantz, 2010).



Amy Chester

Managing Director, Rebuild by Design

Amy has spent more than 20 years in municipal policy, community engagement, real estate development and communications advocating for the urban environment. She led an international competition to create large-scale infrastructure strategies to address vulnerabilities exposed by Hurricane Sandy, resulting in \$930 million in awards from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement the winning designs.



Stella Betts

Partner, LEVENBETTS

Stella is currently an adjunct professor at Yale University School of Architecture. The work of her office with her partner David Leven has received numerous awards and recognition, including 13 AIA Design Awards and the Architectural League's Emerging Voices (2009). Currently her firm is working on their fifth NYC public library, one of which is located in a flood zone. Stella serves on the Board of Directors of the Architectural League of New York.



Sarah Dougherty, WEDG, WELL AP

Senior Program Manager, Waterfront Alliance

Sarah is the senior program manager for the Waterfront Alliance's Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG®) program and contributes to other aspects of the organization's public access and planning work. Sarah brings expertise in resilient design, as well as designing to promote accessibility, human health, and wellness. Previously, she has worked in international development and on gender-focused climate change research.

Moderator: Jasmin Sadegh, Project Engineer, Silman